

Asians in the United States

(Source: Census 2000 Special Reports, Issued December 2004)

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The Asian population is not homogeneous. It includes many groups who differ in language, culture, and length of residence in the United States. Some Asian groups, such as the Chinese and Japanese, have been represented in the United States for several generations. Other groups, such as the Hmong, Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians, tend to be comparatively recent immigrants. Of the total United States population, 11.9 million people, or 4.2 percent, reported they were Asian. This number included 10.2 million people, or 3.6 percent, who reported only Asian and 1.7 million people, or 0.6 percent, who reported Asian and at least one other race.

Asian refers to people having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. Asian groups are not limited to nationalities but include ethnic terms as well, such as Hmong.

The analysis in this report pertains to the 11 Asian groups listed below and the residual category Other Asian. 4 Each of these groups compose at least 1 percent of the total Asian population.

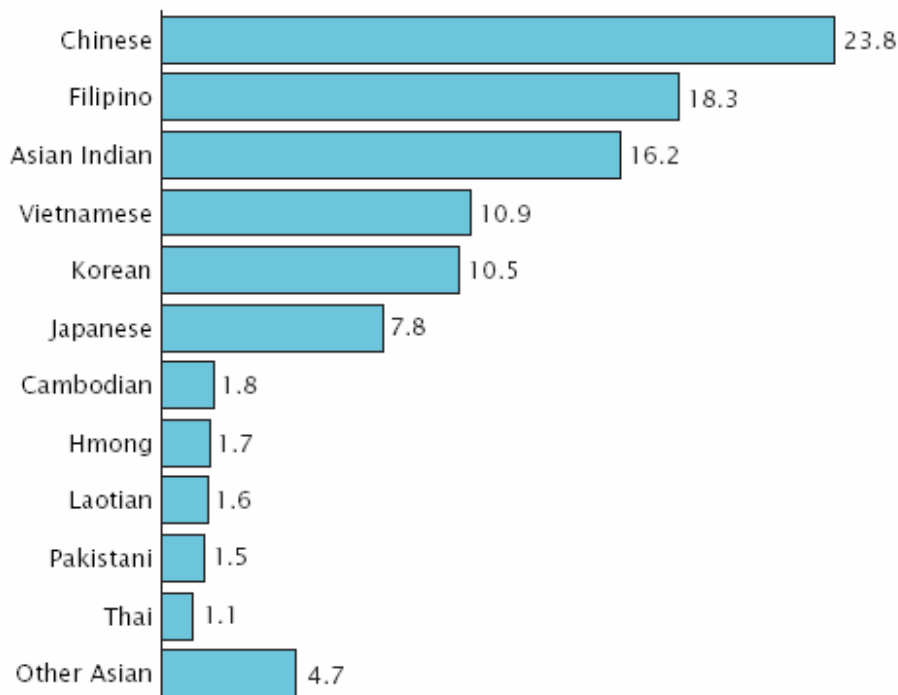
"Asian Indian – Korean - Cambodian - Laotian – Chinese – Pakistani - Filipino – Thai - Hmong – Vietnamese – Japanese"

Table 1. Asian Population by Detailed Group (%)

Five detailed Asian groups had over one million people.

Census 2000 found that, among 10 million Asians in the United States, five groups numbered one million or more: Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese. Together these groups made up about 80 percent of the Asian population. Chinese was the largest group and represented about 24 percent of the Asian population, followed by Filipino, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, and Korean. Six other detailed Asian groups together accounted for about 15 percent of the Asian population: Japanese, Cambodian, Hmong, Laotian, Pakistani, and Thai. The remaining Asian groups (categorized as Other Asian) accounted for about 5 percent of the Asian population.

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Table 2. Asian Population by Detailed Group

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, non-sampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)

Detailed group	Detailed Asian group alone		Detailed Asian group alone or in combination	
	Number	Percent of U.S. population	Number	Percent of U.S. population
Total	¹10,171,820	3.61	²11,859,446	4.21
Asian Indian	1,645,510	0.58	1,855,590	0.66
Cambodian	178,043	0.06	212,633	0.08
Chinese	2,422,970	0.86	2,858,291	1.02
Filipino	1,864,120	0.66	2,385,216	0.85
Hmong	170,049	0.06	184,842	0.07
Japanese	795,051	0.28	1,152,324	0.41
Korean	1,072,682	0.38	1,226,825	0.44
Laotian	167,792	0.06	196,893	0.07
Pakistani	155,909	0.06	209,273	0.07
Thai	110,851	0.04	150,093	0.05
Vietnamese	1,110,207	0.39	1,212,465	0.43
Other Asian	³ 478,636	0.17	⁴ 561,485	0.20

¹ Includes people who reported Asian only, regardless of whether they reported one or more detailed Asian groups.

² Includes people who reported one detailed Asian group, people who reported two or more detailed Asian groups, and people who reported one or more races other than Asian. The total is less than the sum of the rows because most people who reported two or more detailed Asian groups, such as Korean and Filipino, are tabulated once in each category, but only once in the total. People who reported two or more detailed Asian groups not listed above (e.g., Indonesian and Malaysian) are tabulated once in the "Other Asian" category.

³ Includes people who reported one Asian group not listed above and people who reported two or more Asian groups (and no other race), as well as people who checked only the "Other Asian" response category on the census questionnaire or wrote in a generic term such as "Asian or Asiatic."

⁴ Represents the number of people who reported one or more Asian groups excluding the groups listed above. The total of 561,465 includes 254,817 people who reported an Asian group not listed above (e.g., Bangladeshi), 32,308 people who reported two or more Asian groups not listed above (e.g., Indonesian and Malaysian), 261,237 people who reported an Asian group not listed above and one or more races other than Asian (e.g., Nepalese and White), and 13,123 people who reported two or more Asian groups not listed above and one or more races other than Asian (e.g., Indonesian and Sri Lankan and Black).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Table 3. Selected Age Groups and Median Age

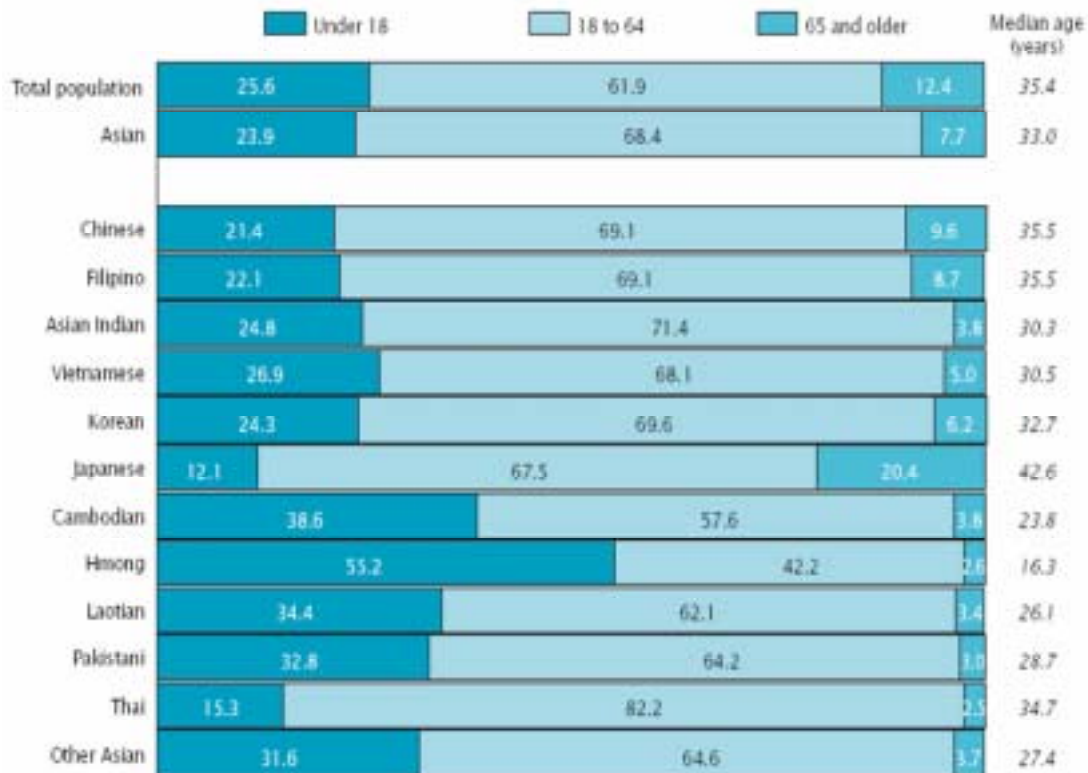
Asians had a lower median age than the total population.

. Asians had a median age of 33 years in 2000, 2 years younger than the national median of 35 years. By far, Japanese was the oldest of the detailed Asian groups, with a median age of nearly 43 years, and Hmong was the youngest with a median age of 16 years.

. Among the detailed Asian groups, 55 percent of the Hmong population, but less than 16 percent of the Japanese and Thai populations, were under 18. Over 80 percent of Thai were between the ages of 18 and 64, in contrast with 42 percent of Hmong.

. About 8 percent of Asians were aged 65 and over, compared with 12 percent of the total population. In each of the detailed Asian groups, except Chinese, Filipino, and Japanese, less than 8 percent of the population was 65 and older. Japanese had the highest proportion at 20 percent.

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Table 4. Household Type and Average Household Size

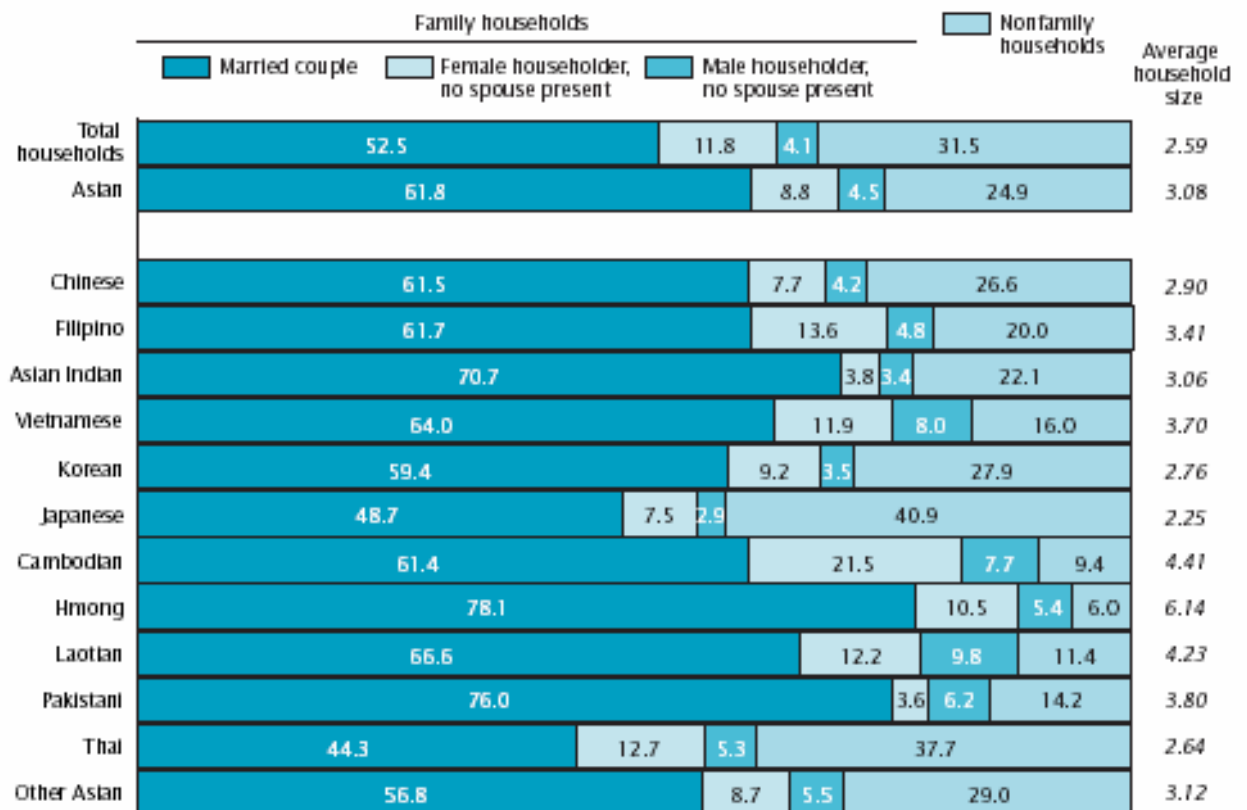
Asians were more likely than the total population to be in married-couple families.

. In 2000, over 60 percent of Asian households were maintained by married couples, compared with 53 percent of households in the total population.⁸ More than 70 percent of Asian Indian, Hmong, and Pakistani households were married-couple

families.
. Among all detailed Asian groups, Asian Indian and Pakistani had the lowest proportions of female-householder families with no husband present (3.8 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively) and

Cambodian had the highest proportion (21 percent).
. The average Asian household had about three members in 2000.
. The highest proportion of nonfamily households occurred for Japanese (41 percent).

(Percent distribution of households. Households are classified by the race of the householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Table 5. Foreign Born by Year of Entry

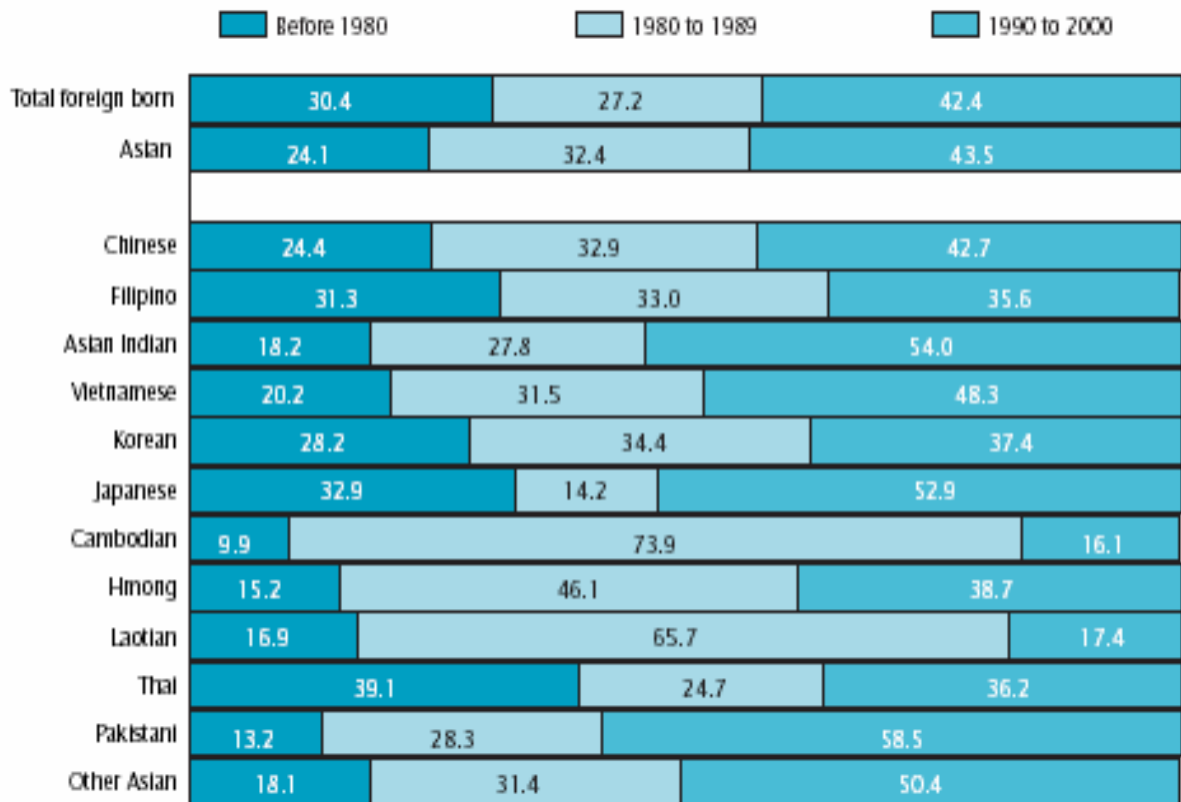
In 2000, the majority of the foreign-born Asian population had entered the United States in the past 20 years.

. A higher proportion (76 percent) of the foreign-born Asian population than the total foreignborn population (70 percent) came to the United States over the past two decades. Fortythree percent of the foreignborn Asian population entered from 1990 to 2000.

. Among the detailed Asian groups, 85 percent or more of foreignborn Cambodians, Pakistanis, and Hmong came to the United States in the past 20 years. In contrast, nearly 40 percent of foreign-born Thai came to the United States before 1980, more than one

and one-half times the proportion for all foreign-born Asians. . Among the detailed Asian groups, over 50 percent of foreign-born Asian Indians, Japanese, and Pakistanis entered the United States between 1990 and 2000.

(Percent distribution. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Table 6. Educational Attainment

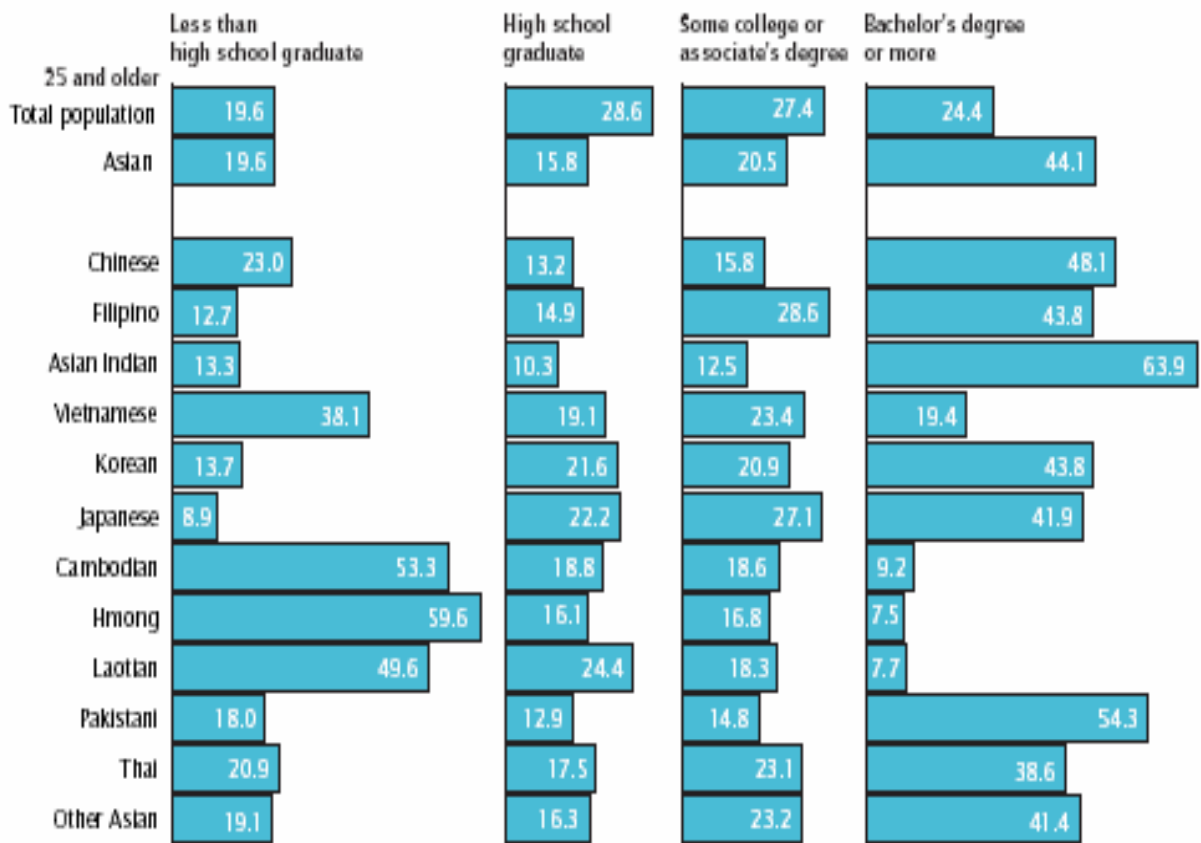
About 80 percent of Asians had a high school diploma or more education.

. In 2000, roughly 80 percent of both all Asians and all people in the United States 25 and older had at least a high school education. However, a higher proportion of Asians (44 percent) than of the total population

(24 percent) had earned at least a bachelor's degree. Asian Indians had the highest percentage with a bachelor's degree, about 64 percent, whereas about 60 percent of Hmong, and about half of

Cambodians and Laotians, had less than a high school education. Japanese had the highest proportion (91 percent) with at least a high school education.

(Percent distribution of population 25 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Table 7. Occupation

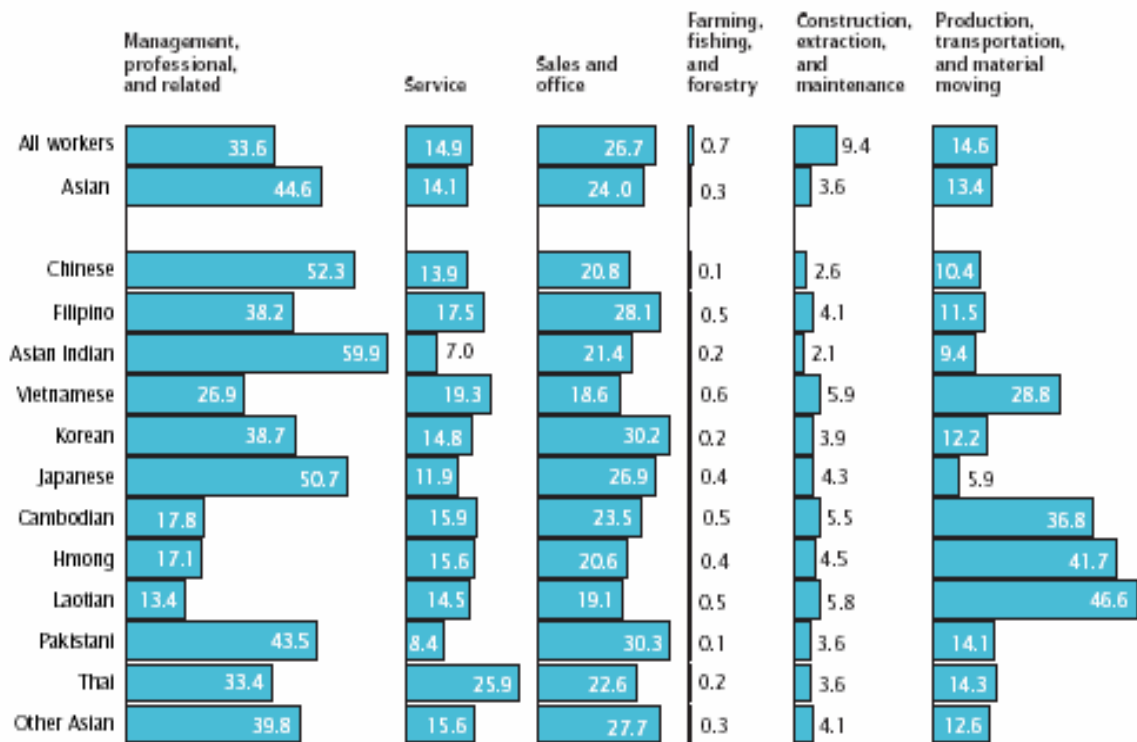
Asians were more likely than the total population to be in management, professional, and related occupations.

. About 45 percent of Asians were employed in management, professional, and related occupations, compared with 34 percent of the total population. However, the proportions employed in these jobs varied from 13 percent for Laotians to 60

percent for Asian Indians. . Less than 20 percent of Cambodians, Hmong, and Laotians were employed in management, professional, and related occupations, and more than 35 percent were employed

in production, transportation, and material moving jobs. . Twenty-six percent of all Thai, compared with less than 15 percent of Asian Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and Pakistanis, were employed in service jobs.

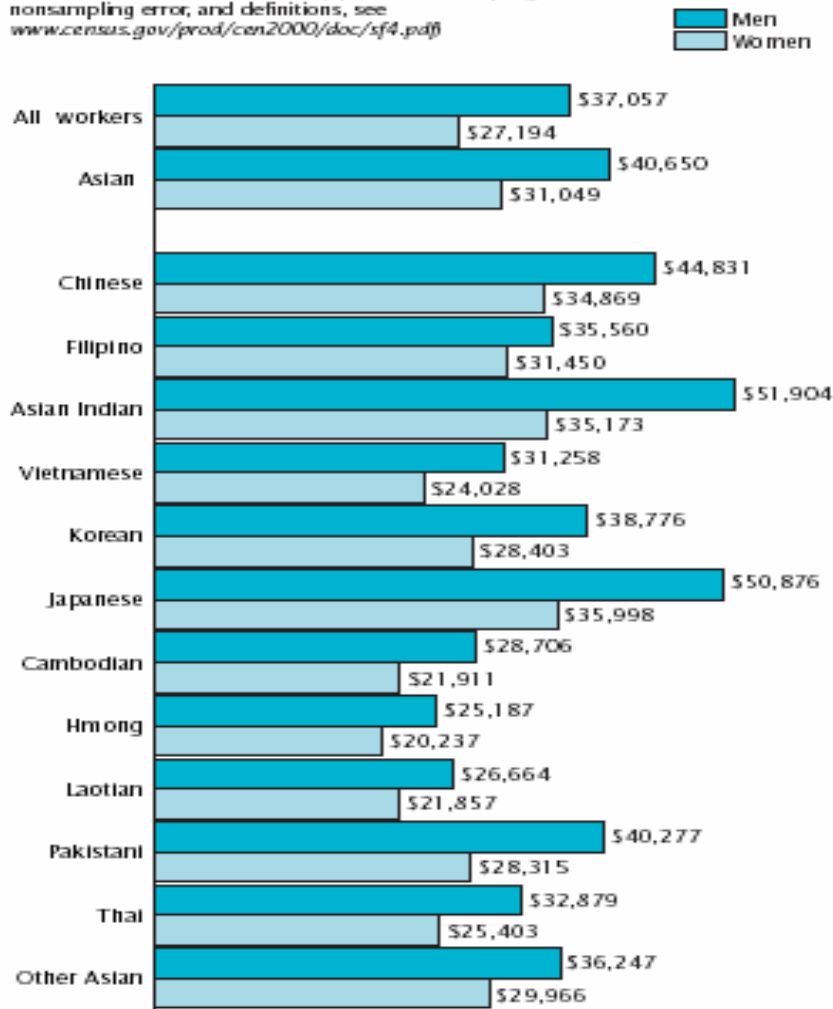
(Percent distribution of employed civilian population 16 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Table 8. Median Earnings by Sex

(For employed, full-time, year-round workers 16 and older. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Asian men and women who worked year-round, full-time had higher median earnings than all men and women.

. In 1999, among year-round, fulltime workers, the median earnings of Asian men were 9 percent higher than those of all men, and the median earnings of Asian women were 14 percent higher than those of all women. . On average, Asian women who worked year-round, full-time earned about 76 dollars for every 100 dollars earned by their male counterparts that year.

. Asian Indian, Japanese, and Chinese men had higher median earnings than Asian men and all men. Asian Indian men had the highest year-round, full-time median earnings (\$51,900), followed by Japanese, with earnings of \$50,900. Hmong and Laotian men had the lowest median earnings of year-round, full-time Asian male workers.

. Japanese, Asian Indian, and Chinese women had the highest median earnings of all detailed Asian female groups and higher median earnings than all Asian women. They also earned between \$4,300 and \$8,800 more annually than all women.

Table 9. Median Family Income

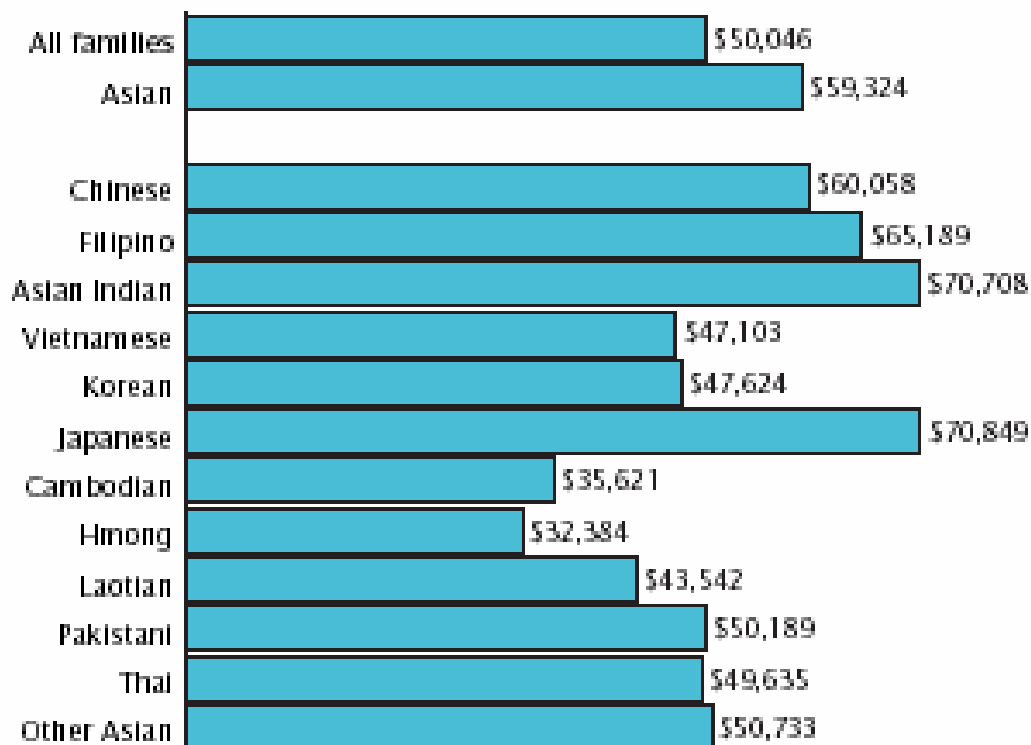
The median annual income of Asian families was higher than the median of all families.

. The median income of Asian families was over \$9,000 higher than the median for all families (\$59,300 compared with \$50,000).

. Asian Indian and Japanese families' median incomes were more than \$10,000 higher than that of all Asian families.

. Cambodian, Hmong, Korean, Laotian, Pakistani, Thai, and Vietnamese median family incomes were substantially lower than the median for all Asian families. The median incomes of Hmong and Cambodian families were the lowest of all Asian groups (\$32,400 and \$35,600, respectively).

(Families classified by race of householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.

Table 10. Housing Tenure

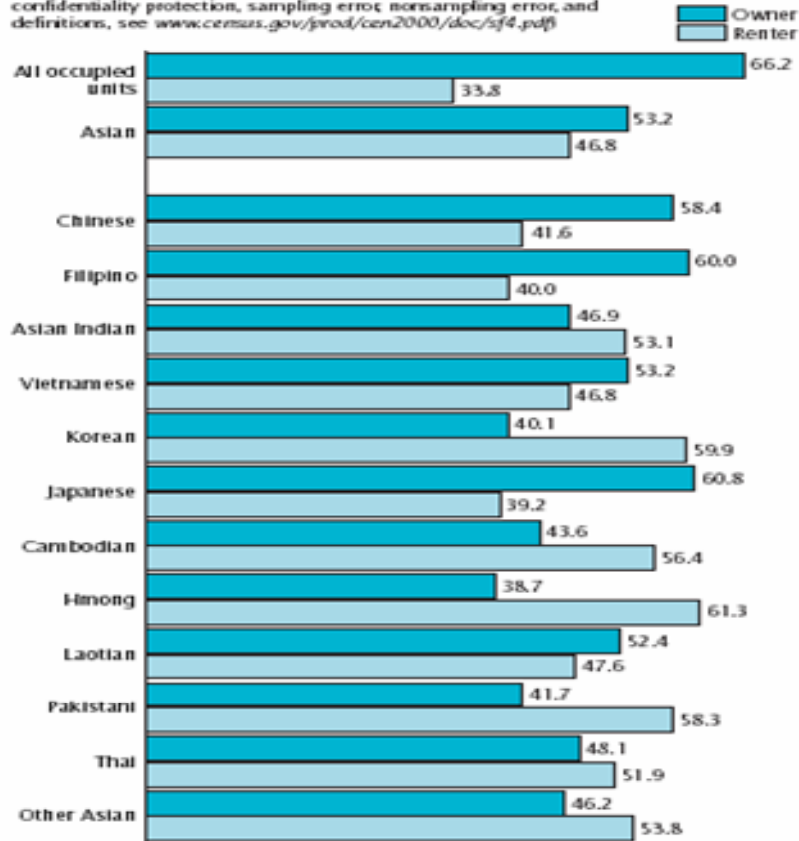
Homeownership was relatively lower for Asians than the total U.S. population.

. In 2000, just over 53 percent of Asian-occupied housing units were owned by their occupants, compared with 66 percent of all occupied housing units.

. Japanese, Filipino, and Chinese had the highest proportion of owner-occupied housing units (61 percent, 60 percent, and 58 percent, respectively).

. The majority of Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Laotian, and Vietnamese householders owned their homes. The majority of householders for the remaining detailed Asian groups rented. Hmong, Korean, Pakistani, and Cambodian had the highest proportions of renter-occupied housing units.

Percent distribution of occupied housing units. Housing tenure of the detailed group is shown by the race of the householder. Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf4.pdf



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 special tabulation.